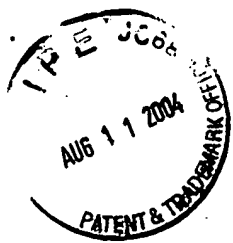


26714
41**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of:)
Masaki Hiraga)
Serial No.: 09/972,925)
Filed: October 10, 2001)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
ENCODING AND DECODING AN)
OBJECT)

Group Art Unit: 2671
Examiner: Scott A. Wallace
Attorney Docket: 13780

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action mailed March 12, 2004, please consider the enclosed
Declarations and the remarks/arguments which begin on Page 2 of this paper.